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FLOODS, INSECTS AGAIN THREATEN CROPS;  
FARM ANIMALS TO BE INSURED

RAIN DAMAGES KWANGTUNG RICE CROP -- Canton Nan-fang Jih-pao, 22 May 50

Central Kwangtung -- The heavy rainfall during the first part of May caused many breaks in the embankments protecting rice fields in Hsin-hui Hsien, Kwangtung, and inundated more than 85,000 mou. In addition to causing extensive damages, it is estimated that one-third of the crops were destroyed.

Investigation after the disaster disclosed that the dikes along the main rivers, such as T'ien Ho, Lung-tien, etc., which were recently repaired and reinforced, suffered mainly from the breaks in the rice-field protective embankments which were in need of repair work. Plans are now being made to encourage the farmers to undertake immediate repair work on these embankments to prevent future disasters.

More than 38,000 mou of rice fields in Li-lo-hsiang in Hsin-hui Hsien, Kwangtung, were inundated by the heavy rainfall, which continued for several days during the first part of May. Surveys taken after the disaster showed that more than 10 percent of the crops were totally destroyed, while 40 percent were heavily damaged.

Hsi-chiang -- The heavy rainfall on 4 May 1950 caused breaks in the T'hsing, Huang-kang, and Pai-hao embankments, which are in the process of being repaired, and flooded about 2,700 mou of cultivated fields, causing extensive damage to rice and bean crops.

WU-CHIANG FIGHTS CATERPILLARS -- Hsin Su-chou Pao, 17 Apr 50

In 1949, caterpillars destroyed 5 percent of the rice in the fields and approximately 15 million catties of the rice harvested in the Wu-chiang Hsien area. This was one of the causes of the 1950 famine. To prevent the recurrence of such a calamity, the Wu-chiang Hsien People's government held

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on 11 April 1950, a conference to plan for the extermination of caterpillars. Present at the conference were 18 persons, including farmers, representatives of the hsien government, and production and reconstruction cadres of the regional government.

Since the past winter was too mild to have killed the caterpillar eggs, over one million mou of rice land may be infested with caterpillars in 1950. If this catastrophe is not averted, it may be worse than the one in 1949. The members of the conference determined on a program to be carried out. First, citizens must be made conscious of the possible calamity and students should be trained to participate in propaganda activities. Then, farmers must be trained to recognize the eggs, to destroy them, and to catch the moths. Other preventive methods must be adopted throughout the plowing, sowing, planting, and harvesting seasons.

PESTS THREATEN HOPEH WHEAT CROP -- Hong Kong Wen-hui Pao, 26 May 50

Peiping, 25 May (Hsin-hua) -- The wheat crop of central Hopeh, especially in Ho-chien and Kao-yang hsien, is threatened by the outbreak of wheat rust and a plague of wasps. Although the blight has not yet attained large proportions, it is spreading to other areas. The government agricultural officials are advising the farmers as to ways and means of combating the blight and the insects. They are cautioning the farmers against keeping infected grain as seed for next year's planting, and are recommending instead the use of blight-resistant varieties of seed from areas that are not affected by the present outbreak.

1949 GRAIN COLLECTION NEARS COMPLETION -- Nanking Hsin-hua Jih-pao, 15 Apr 50

Peiping, 14 April (Hsin-hua) -- The 1949 national grain-collection program is almost completed in spite of calamities, many of which were an outgrowth of long-term KMT destructive activities. According to incomplete data at the end of March 1950, 90 percent of the estimated amount of national grain to be collected was brought in. Northeast China, Inner Mongolia, and Northwest China exceeded their quota. The Northeast surpassed its quota by 4 percent, which is 200,000 tons; Inner Mongolia by 5 percent, and the Northwest by 13 percent. Sungkiang and Chahar provinces were the first to fulfill their 1949 quotas, having completed their programs by December 1949.

In setting standards for grain quotas, the ability of the individual areas was taken into consideration. Calamity regions were either exempted from grain levies or their quotas were reduced to a reasonable amount. For example, all sections of Heilungkiang affected by the flood, which damaged one million mou of land, were exempted. North Kiangsu was exempted from being levied 350 million catties of grain and 50 million catties of cottonseed.

DEVELOPS AGRICULTURAL TECHNIQUES -- Canton Nan-fang Jih-pao, 10 Apr 50

Tsinan, 9 April (Hsin-hua) -- The program to develop agricultural techniques in Shantung Province, which was started in 1949, will be intensified during 1950.

During 1949, the province established 13 agricultural experimentation stations, one agricultural guidance office, 126 model farms, many testing fields, model villages, technique promotion committees, research subcommittees, and research promotion corps.

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In the Chiao-tung area, there are 40 model farms, each with 45 testing fields, and a model village organized from 117 farm households. It has 21 agricultural promotion committees, and 66 research subcommittees. During 1949, this area produced 210,000 catties of corn and wheat, and increased its food output by more than 100,000 catties.

In addition to these activities, many areas in the province held agricultural fairs, started short-term classes in new techniques in plowing, sowing, and in the production of superior farm products and animals. Many farmers in the P'o-hai area visited the fairs and admired the "S" type cotton, the superior No 195 wheat, yellow bantam corn, and other such excellent farm products. The seeds were distributed to local farmers by experiment stations. Farmers in Chu Hsien visited a model village with a wheat field entirely rid of black smut. The visitors were thus made to realize that they were wrong in their superstitious belief that the disease resulted from some heavenly wrath. In eastern Shantung alone, 20,000 farmers received training in new plowing and planting techniques.

To increase grain and cotton production in the province during 1950, the Provincial People's government has established an agricultural and cotton improvement office and technical promotion corps in many hsien. A seed company was also established to control, inspect, and distribute better seeds. The company has already distributed 4 million catties of "S" type cotton to farmers thus far.

In the campaign against crop-damaging insects, farmers were directed to kill the larvae and young insects. In seriously infested areas, anti-insect stations were set up to spray insecticides. More than 2,800 sprayers were distributed to farmers in this campaign.

#### INSURES FARM ANIMALS -- Hong Kong Wen-hui Pao, 27 May 50

Tsinan, 25 May (Hsin-hua) -- For the first time in China, farm animals will be insured. In March 1950, the East China Branch of the People's Insurance Company dispatched responsible personnel to Shantung Province to select a suitable hsien to carry out this new experiment. Kao-ho Hsien in the Lo-pei area of the province was chosen because of its large animal population and its frequent outbreaks of epizootic epidemics.

The hsien animals, numbering 32,400 head, will be insured after a careful survey as to distribution, breeding, prevalent diseases, and number of deaths. At present, the company is conducting a 2-month health and antiepidemic inoculation campaign in the hsien.

#### LOANS AID FARMERS TO GET WATER -- Tientsin Chin-pu Jih-pao, 31 Mar 50

Peiping -- The work of the society for the promotion of better water supplies, which is connected with the Ministry of Agriculture, is getting under way. It is aiding rural units to carry out moderate and small size water conservation projects. Its plans include providing the farmers in North China, in 1950, with a total of 80,000 water pumps on a financial loan basis. One quarter of the price of a pump must be paid by the borrower, in cash or in kind, at the time of delivery of the pump.

Up to the end of March 1950, 29,281 pumps had been built, and 10,597 pumps had been loaned to farmers in Hopeh, Chahar, Ping-yuan, and Shansi. The society is prepared to distribute 66,100 by the end of June 1950. The remainder will be distributed in the fall before the time of planting the winter wheat. Other plans call for advancing funds on loan to farmers to drill or dig wells for irrigation purposes.

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NORTHEAST COMPLETES QUOTA FOR WINTER TIMBER OUTPUT -- Tientsin Chin-pu Jih-pao,  
31 Mar 50

Mukden, 30 March (Hsin-hua) -- The Northeast forestry districts completed their winter quota 10 days earlier than the original plan, and had cut 3,870,000 cubic meters of timber by 10 March 1950. The trees were felled according to the Soviet method, which is to cut a tree not higher than 10 centimeters from the ground, thereby saving 400,000 cubic meters of lumber. If this saving is converted to Northeast currency, at the minimum price of 5 million yuan per cubic meter of lumber, it amounts to 2 trillion yuan.

The successful fulfillment of this quota was the result of detailed planning and preparation prior to beginning of operations, and complete coordination among all workers and supervisors during all phases of the job.

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